

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

TULSA WORLD

A 29

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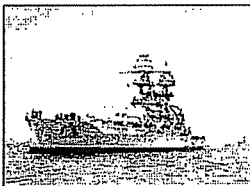
FROM A-25

More than 400 crewmen lost their lives. That more did not die is owed largely to the heroics of sailors and civilians who cut through the upturned hull to rescue those trapped below decks.

The Oklahoma was refloated in 1943 and sold for scrap after the war, but sank in the Pacific while being towed to California. "I think the guys who were on the Oklahoma preferred that to having it made into razor blades," said King's friend, Oklahoma state Sen. Jim Reynolds, R-Oklahoma City.

But it wasn't what they would most like. At King's urging, Reynolds became involved with surviving crew members who want the Oklahoma remembered at Pearl Harbor.

The major memorial there is to the USS Arizona, and for good reason. The Arizona took a direct hit from a 1,700-pound Japanese bomb that blew up the



ship's forward magazine. The ship sank immediately with the loss of nearly 1,200 lives. It remains at the bottom of the harbor, still oozing oil.

The Oklahoma's losses, though, were the second-heaviest, and its remaining crew, King, Reynolds and others think it deserves a place of honor.

Monday night, the USS Oklahoma gets one.

Reynolds and U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okl., are among the dignitaries expected for the dedication of a permanent Oklahoma exhibit at the Arizona Memorial.

"It's been a moment many crew members of the Oklahoma have looked forward to," Cole said. "They have waged a very vigorous campaign."

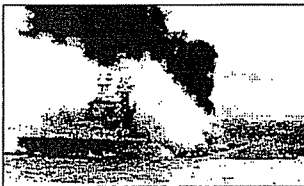
Oklahoma enthusiasts hope the exhibit is just a step toward

a memorial of some sort, probably on Ford Island. When it sank, the Oklahoma was anchored off Ford Island, next to the USS Maryland. The Oklahoma took the brunt of the torpedoes, leaving the Maryland relatively intact.

By coincidence, the decommissioned USS Missouri, now a museum, is anchored in about the same spot.

"We've looked at several sites on Ford Island," Reynolds said. "The problem is with accessibility. Before 9/11 you could get to Ford Island by car. Now the only way for a civilian to go is on a tour of the Missouri. That tour costs about \$15. The guys from the Oklahoma want easy access."

Reynolds said there has been some talk of building another



Left, the USS Oklahoma lies capsized in Pearl Harbor alongside the USS Maryland on Dec. 7, 1941. Far left, the Oklahoma, which was christened in 1914, is shown in an April 1938 photo. The battleship was one of the first to carry the U.S. Navy's triple gun turret.

Associated Press file

Uah, was used for training.

All three were at Pearl Harbor.

The Uah, like the Oklahoma, capsized with the loss of about 50 men during the Japanese attack. The Nevada ran for the open sea but was hit and had to be run aground to keep from sinking in the harbor entrance.

The Oklahoma rolled over so quickly that many men below deck were able to survive in pockets of trapped air. A civilian shipyard worker, Julio DeCastro, hurriedly organized the rescue crew that cut through the ship's hull.

The Oklahoma, the Arizona and the Uah were the only ships sunk at Pearl Harbor not to return to service.

Refloating the Oklahoma turned out to be one of the biggest salvage jobs ever, requiring 21 winches and more than a year. The Oklahoma's age and its extensive damage precluded refloating it, but the Navy wanted it out of the way.

Stripped of guns and superstructure, it sank loose in May 1957 while in tow to California. "This exhibit is long overdue," Cole said. "It's important to remember a unique era that has passed."

Andy Kroll/401-831-8325
andy.kroll@tulsaworld.com

CHERRY:

Restaurants helped entertain children with more than just food.

FROM A-25

families to enjoy.

"It's not that much fun just giving away food," she said. "I

knew the kids would want something to do. We've been full all day with children. We had to go buy more supplies to keep up."

Austin and Wyatt Bain, along with their parents, participated in all Hillway had to offer. The boys made crafts, and mom had her face painted.

After they were done there, the family headed down to the tamarisks outside Doe's.

"I think this is pretty neat," the boys' dad, Joe Bain, said. "Munch your way down Cherry

Street."

The parade ran down 15th Street from Ulita to Pearl Avenue and featured the Tulsa Fire Department and its clowns, Santa, a dance troupe, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and other civic organizations. Many threw candy to eager children lining the streets.

"I got some candy," 3-year-old Daniel Hanson said, smiling as he gripped a handful of treats. "And I got a pencil."

Representatives from Doe's and Hideaway said they knew

the event would be something people would enjoy.

"They said the world's shortest parade was going to be out here today, so we thought we'd set up a booth out here," Doe's owner Skip Long said. "A lot of people haven't tasted my tamales. I think if they taste my tamales, they'll come have a steak."

Author: Wilson 581-8325
wilson.aj@tulsaworld.com

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How can we have too much of a good thing?

Lately, a good deal of concern has been raised about the effect of excess nutrients on the land and water of Eastern Oklahoma.

So where do these nutrients come from?

Nutrients can come from many sources, one of which is the use of poultry litter as an organic fertilizer. However, many other man-made and natural sources contribute nutrients to our watershed.

The 1.2 million cattle that graze in Eastern Oklahoma deposit a considerable amount of nutrients on the land and in our streams in the form of manure. In comparison, a healthy chicken produces less than three ounces of manure a day; a growing cow produces 60 pounds per day and there are no application guidelines for cattle farmers.

When sources of nutrients include conventional chemical fertilizers used for agriculture and home, plant nurseries, rural septic tanks and municipal waste treatment facilities, even poultry litter, if not run properly, contribute nutrients through the use of highly soluble commercial fertilizers.

In short, the sources of nutrients in our watershed are many.

Today in Oklahoma, only one of the above mentioned potential sources is regulated and monitored - the poultry industry.

We have recently proposed an extensive plan to address poultry related nutrient management here in our State's Five Waterways. With the state's involvement, we hope to move forward with this plan.

The multi-component plan of nutrient management must go beyond the industry and encompass all who contribute to nutrient loading in our water bodies.

We are making a major effort in our industry to manage nutrients. Now we encourage everyone who has a stake in our land and our waters to join us.

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Tulsa World Oklahoma City News-Record Muskogee Daily News Enterprise

EXHIBIT

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Ad - Letter to Citizens of Oklahoma

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Dear Citizens of Oklahoma,

We are the thousands of Oklahomans and Americans who work in the poultry industry, providing nutritious chicken and turkey products to families like yours. We are farmers and scientists, breeders and processors, people not like you who care about the quality of our birds, lakes and streams.

That's why we have been working with the State of Oklahoma on a multi-million-dollar voluntary program to improve the management of poultry land use. We know the right way they are run. That's why we have drafted this proposal to the Attorney General's Office with recommendations on how to do it. These include:

- Developing a science-based standard for nutrient management that protects our water resources
- Incorporating that new standard into the nutrient management plan of all poultry farms
- Reducing the amount of poultry litter applied to fields by increasing even distribution of litter to water areas once the litter has been composted
- Expanding other alternatives for litter management such as burning, composting, or for export and processing to a separate facility
- Funding new environmental projects like water conservation programs, research and development, and alternative uses for land, and making grants for farm cleanup
- Creating and funding a non-profit organization to acquire and maintain conservation easements and buffer strips around and then to protect against nutrient runoff and erosion
- Reporting to you how we're doing by publishing a report every five years

Along with these steps we've already implemented, these steps will help us and our partners here improve poultry land use in order to protect those scenic river watersheds. But that's not all. We would also consider voluntary measures, cost-share programs and the creation of these incentives rather than Oklahoma standards, provided we can reach an agreement with the Attorney General on the specifics.

Our State House is currently working on legislation that includes more water use standards that particularly focus on the health of the rivers and streams that we drink from. We are prepared to discuss this bill with you on the poultry portion of the legislation. To see exactly how we plan to do this, please call 888-555-2100 for a copy of our full proposal.

We look forward to meeting with the Attorney General and the good people of Oklahoma to present our proposal and to ensure that the poultry industry in Oklahoma is protected and that the State of Oklahoma is protected.

